

Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Wilson T. Asfora

Serial No.: 09/633,573

Filed: August 4, 2000

Docket No.: M190.236.101 / P0030090.01

Title: SUBDURAL VACUUM PORT SYSTEM

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 11 and 12.

Please amend claims 2, 6, 9 and 43 as follows:

1.(Previously Presented) A subdural evacuating port device for evacuating a collection of fluid from a subdural space of a patient, comprising:

a tubular portion for partial insertion into an opening in a skull of a patient, the tubular portion having a proximal end and a distal end and a lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends, the tubular portion having an exterior surface, the exterior surface at the proximal end of the tubular portion forming self-tapping threads and a longitudinal groove extending through the self-tapping threads to define thread cutting surfaces adapted for cutting threads into the opening in the skull of the patient;

a pair of wings for facilitating finger rotation of the tubular portion, the wings extending outwardly from the tubular portion in substantially opposite directions from the tubular portion; and

retaining means on the exterior surface of the tubular portion adjacent to the distal end for engaging and retaining the conduit on the distal end of the tubular portion.

2.(Currently Amended) The subdural evacuating port device of claim 1 wherein the wings are mounted on the tubular portion at a location 3-medial between the proximal and distal ends of the tubular portion.

3.(Cancelled)

4.(Original) The subdural evacuating port device of claim 1 wherein the retaining means comprises a plurality of annular barbs formed on the exterior surface adjacent the distal end of the tubular portion.

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5.(Previously Presented) The subdural evacuating port device of claim 1 wherein the wings are mounted on the tubular portion at a location medial between the proximal and distal ends of the tubular portion, and wherein the retaining means comprises a plurality of annular barbs formed on the exterior surface adjacent the distal end of the tubular portion.

6.(Currently Amended) A kit for evacuating a collection of fluid from a subdural space of a patient having a scalp, comprising:

a subdural evacuating port device having a proximal end and a distal end, the subdural evacuating port device having a tubular portion with a lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends, an exterior surface of the proximal end of the tubular portion having self-tapping threads formed thereon for cutting threads into a skull, retaining means on the exterior surface of the tubular portion adjacent to the distal end for engaging and retaining the conduit on the distal end of the tubular portion, and a pair of wings extending outwardly from the tubular portion, the wings extending in opposite directions; and

a retractor for spacing sides of a scalp after an incision has been made, the retractor comprising a pair of arms each having a proximal end joined together to form an apex, each of the arms extending away from the apex such that distal ends of the arms are spaced from each other, the arms of the retractor forming a substantially V-shaped configuration, and the distal end of each arm forming a curved L-shaped tab for lodging below the scalp; and

a negative pressure device comprising a suction bulb having a pair of openings, the bulb having an interior, the bulb having a primary opening and a secondary opening between the interior and an exterior of the bulb, a check valve in communication with the primary opening for resisting exit of fluid from the interior of the bulb to the exterior of the bulb through the primary opening and permitting fluid flow

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into the interior through the primary opening, a cap for selectively closing the secondary opening of the bulb.

7.(Original) The kit of claim 6 additionally comprising a drill bit for forming an opening in the skull of the patient.

8.(Original) The kit of claim 7 additionally comprising a stop collar selectively lockable in a position on the drill bit for setting the maximum penetration of the drill bit into a surface.

9.(Original) The kit of claim 6 additionally comprising a conduit having first and second ends, the first end being adapted for connection to the subdural evacuating port device, the second end of the conduit being for connection to a negative pressure source.

10.(Cancelled)

11.(Cancelled)

12.(Cancelled)

13. – 33.(Cancelled)

34.(Previously Presented) The subdural evacuating port device of claim 1 wherein the retaining means comprises at least three annular barbs formed on the exterior surface of the tubular portion adjacent to the distal end.

35.(Previously Presented) The subdural evacuating port device of claim 4 wherein each of the annular barbs comprises a frustaconical surface for facilitating sliding insertion of the distal end

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of the tubular portion into the conduit and an adjoining annular shoulder surface that resists sliding removal of the conduit from the distal end of the tubular member.

36 - 37.(Cancelled)

38.(Previously Presented) The kit of claim 6 wherein the retaining means comprises a plurality of annular barbs formed on the exterior surface of the tubular portion.

39.(Previously Presented) The kit of claim 38 wherein each of the annular barbs comprises a frustaconical surface for facilitating sliding insertion of the distal end of the tubular portion into the conduit and an adjoining annular shoulder surface that resists sliding removal of the conduit from the distal end of the tubular member.

40. – 41.(Cancelled)

42.(Previously Presented) The subdural evacuating port device of claim 1 wherein the wings are mounted on the tubular portion at a location medial between the proximal and distal ends of the tubular portion, and wherein the retaining means comprises at least three annular barbs formed on the exterior surface adjacent the distal end of the tubular portion; and

wherein each of the annular barbs comprises a frustaconical surface for facilitating sliding insertion of the distal end of the tubular portion into the conduit and an adjoining annular shoulder surface that resists sliding removal of the conduit from the distal end of the tubular member.

43.(Currently Amended) The kit of claim 6 additionally comprising a drill bit for forming an opening in the skull of the patient;

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a stop collar selectively lockable in a position on the drill bit for setting the maximum penetration of the drill bit into a surface;

a conduit having first and second ends, the first end being adapted for connection to the subdural evacuating port device, the second end of the conduit being for connection to a negative pressure source;

~~a negative pressure device for creating a negative pressure condition, the negative pressure device comprising a suction bulb having a pair of openings, the bulb having an interior, the bulb having a primary opening and a secondary opening between the interior and an exterior of the bulb, a check valve in communication with the primary opening for resisting exit of fluid from the interior of the bulb to the exterior of the bulb through the primary opening and permitting fluid flow into the interior through the primary opening, a cap for selectively closing the secondary opening of the bulb;~~

wherein the wings of the subdural evacuating port device are mounted on the tubular portion at a location medial between the proximal and distal ends of the tubular portion, and wherein the retaining means comprises a plurality of annular barbs formed on the exterior surface adjacent the distal end of the tubular portion;

wherein the retaining means comprises at least three annular barbs formed on the exterior surface of the tubular portion adjacent to the distal end; and

wherein each of the annular barbs comprises a frustaconical surface for facilitating sliding insertion of the distal end of the tubular portion into the conduit and an adjoining annular shoulder surface that resists sliding removal of the conduit from the distal end of the tubular member.

44.(Previously Presented) The subdural evacuating port device of claim 1 wherein the retaining means comprises a plurality of annular barbs formed on the exterior surface of the tubular portion adjacent to the distal end.

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45.(Previously Presented) A subdural evacuating port device for evacuating a collection of fluid from a subdural space of a patient, comprising:

- a tubular portion for partial insertion into an opening in a skull of a patient, the tubular portion having a proximal end and a distal end and a lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends, the lumen having a constant diameter throughout the tubular portion, the tubular portion having an exterior surface;
- a pair of wings for facilitating finger rotation of the tubular portion, the wings extending outwardly from the tubular portion in substantially opposite directions from the tubular portion; and
- a plurality of annular barbs formed on the exterior surface of the tubular portion adjacent to the distal end for engaging an interior surface of a conduit with a flexible wall to releasably retain the conduit on the distal end of the tubular portion.

46.(Previously Presented) The subdural evacuating port device of claim 1 wherein the exterior surface of the tubular portion has a width, and each wing of the pair of wings has a thickness between opposite faces extending parallel to a longitudinal axis of the tubular portion, and wherein the width of the tubular portion is greater than the thickness of each wing at at least one portion of each wing.

47.(Previously Presented) The subdural evacuating port device of claim 1 wherein each wing of the pair of wings has a pair of opposite faces, and wherein each of the faces of each wing intersects the tubular portion.

48.(Previously Presented) The subdural evacuating port device of claim 1 wherein each wing of the pair of wings comprises a root section extending from the tubular portion and a terminal section extending outwardly from the root section; and

- a width of the terminal section of each wing is greater than a width of the root section of the wing.